**From:** Katherine Ellin
**To:** City Council
**Subject:** reject HP resolution
**Date:** Thursday, April 12, 2018 3:38:14 PM

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Dear City Council Members,

As a Cambridge resident, I urge you to reject the resolution that calls for the City "to end its contracts" with Hewlett-Packard (HP) until, according to the organizers, HP "ends their support for violence against and oppression of Palestinians, deportations and surveillance of immigrants in the U.S., and oppression and surveillance of those currently and formerly incarcerated in the U.S."

I urge you to reject this effort to single out Israel for demonization. The Cambridge City Council should not abdicate its responsibilities to an interest group whose purpose is to demonize Israel. Any resolution of this kind deserves a full and fair public hearing, including inviting experts and interested parties to weigh in openly before action is taken.

Singling out Israel and HP, among all the nations, companies, and conflicts in the world, and holding them to a unique ethical standard would raise troubling issues about the Cambridge City Council. Thousands of American companies that are working overseas and engaged in transactions that can be tied to questionable human rights practices, including numerous companies with Cambridge contacts. If the Cambridge City Council elected to adopt a foreign policy that it applied without prejudice to nations and companies around the world, that would be a different matter. However, in this instance, the Council is overlooking scores of other situations and electing to support dubious and largely unexamined claims against Israel made by an outside organization.

The BDS movement is detrimental to achieving peace. The establishment of a Palestinian state is a goal we share, but will not be realized by extreme and deceptive claims that belie the hard reality on the ground. There are many people of goodwill, who are working to bridge the divide between Israelis and Palestinians. Boycotts, like the one under consideration, undermine these peacemakers, fuel polarization, and strengthen the hands of those who reject co-existence.

Again, I urge you to reject this resolution.

Thank you,
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